

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CU-02 USIE-00 SMI-01 SS-15 MMO-01

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O 031514Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7732

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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NAIROBI FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, OXEC, XJ

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN AFRICAN DIASPORA PROGRAM

REF: STATE 100968

1. REGRET DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL, BUT WE HAVE BEEN  
CONCENTRATING ON SECRETARY'S VISIT.

2. THE NEWS THAT THE SMITHSONIAN IS UNABLE TO FUND THE  
ROUNDTrip AIR TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THE FOLK ARTISTS  
FROM ZAIRE HITS US AT A PARTICULARLY DELICATE TIME.  
PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA MADE A STRONG  
PITCH TO THE SECRETARY WHILE HE WAS HERE, ASKING THAT THE  
ZAIRIAN NATIONAL BALLET (APPROXIMATELY 65 MEMBERS PLUS LIMITED  
STAFF) BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BICENTENNIAL  
FESTIVITIES. THE SECRETARY, WHO HAD WITNESSED THE GROUP  
PERFORM, WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE BALLET WHICH TELLS THE STORY  
OF THE BIRTH OF THE ZAIRIAN NATION THROUGH AUTHENTIC FOLK  
DANCING BY REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS MAJOR ZAIRIAN TRIBES.  
THE SECRETARY WAS THUS RECEPTIVE TO MOBUTU'S IDEA  
AND INDICATED WE WOULD LOOK INTO HAVING THE ENTIRE GROUP  
INVITED.

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3. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE SMITHSONIAN HAD ALREADY

INVITED A SMALLER GROUP FROM ZAIRE AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM SET FORTH REFTTEL, WE REALIZE THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH AN INVITATION TO THE LARGER BALLETT GROUP WILL POSE. NOTWITHSTANDING, GIVEN MOBUTU'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND THE DISCUSSION ON THIS MATTER HERE, WE BELIEVE THAT A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND. BASED UPON OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH THE KINSHASA COMMERCIAL FAIR, HOWEVER, WE KNOW THAT LOCAL US BUSINESSMEN WILL NOT COME UP WITH THE MONEY REQUIRED.

4. A POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE SMITHSONIAN TO ACCEPT THE BALLETT AS ZAIRE'S REPRESENTATIVE, BUT ASK THE GOZ--THROUGH THIS EMBASSY--TO FUND THE ROUNDTRIP AIR TRANSPORT COSTS. THIS APPROACH WOULD BE FORTHCOMING TO MOBUTU'S REQUEST AND WOULD GIVE US A HANDLE TO ASK THAT THE ZAIRIANS PROVIDE THE PLANE FOR THE TRIP TO WASHINGTON AND BACK.

5. PLEASE ADVISE URGENTLY.  
CUTLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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